

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /082 W
-----044300 141000Z /10

R 132000Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1745
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4724

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JM
SUBJECT: RULING PARTY'S INTERNAL SITUATION

REFS: KINGSTON 4421, 4506

1. MINISTER OF LABOR WILLIAM ISAACS TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 13
THAT THE DAILY GLEANER REPORTS OF A MOVE INSIDE THE RULING
PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO GET PRIME MINISTER
MANLEY TO RESIGN HIS PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL POSTS WAS PURE
FABRICATION. WHAT HAPPENED, ACCORDING TO ISAACS, IS THAT
A GROUP OF 30 RULING PARTY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
DECIDED TO MEET PRIVATELY TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING PARTY
CONGRESS. SOME 22 MEMBERS SHOWED UP AND THE MEETING WAS
CHAired BY FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON. ISAACS INSISTS
THAT AS A MATTER OF COURSE ALL PRESENT EXPRESSED THEIR FULL
SUPPORT FOR MANLEY AND HIS IDEOLOGY OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM
AND THAT THE MAIN ITEM DISCUSSED WAS WHO THE GROUP WOULD
SUPPORT FOR THE POST OF VICE PRESIDENT. COMMENT:
ISAACS AND PATTERSON, OF COURSE, ARE CONSIDERED LEADERS
OF THE MODERATE WING OF THE PARTY. END OF COMMENT.
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WHEN LEFTISTS HEARD OF THE MEETING, THEY INTERPRETED IT AS
A CABAL AGAINST MANLEY, WHICH WAS THE
SOURCE OF THE GLEANER STORY.

2. MANAGING DIRECTOR AND EDITOR OF GLEANER HAVE TOLD AMBASSADOR AND
EMBOFFS THAT THEIR REPORT IS BASED ON WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS SOLID
AND INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE. EDITOR WENT SO FAR AS TO CLAIM

THAT GLEANER INFORMANT HAS PUT IT IN WRITING. FOR THE
MOMENT THE STORY SEEMS TO HAVE DIED DOWN WITH STATEMENTS
BY PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
AND BY PARTY EXECUTIVE DENYING ALLEGATIONS AND EXPRESSING
FULL SUPPORT FORMANLEY.

3. COMMENT: ISAACS, WHO IS CONSIDERED NOT ONLY A MODERATE
BUT A RIGHT WINGER IN THE PNP, IS ALSO A CLOSE, LONG-TIME
FRIEND OF MANLEY,WHO GOT HIM INTO POLITICS. HIS EXPLANATION OF THE
GLEANER ARTICLE IS CERTAINLY PLAUSIBLE. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE
THAT HIS GROUP OF MODERATES DID DISCUSS DUMPING MANLEY, AND, IF THEY
DID, THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT TO ADMITT IT TO ANY OUTSIDERS,
AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RULING PARTY, POLITICAL PARTIES, SECRET MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST04724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780248-0252
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780666/aaaaceto.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a261498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINGSTON 4421
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2376959
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RULING PARTY'S INTERNAL SITUATION
TAGS: PGOV, JM, (PATTERSON, P J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a261498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014